

Vickers Hydraulic Systems and Components in World-wide Use

Occupancy of the new Vickers plant at 3201 Lomita Blvd., Torrance, in March of this year, brought engineering, sales, service, and production of aircraft, missile, and engine hydraulic systems and components activity to the area.

The new plant houses Vickers aircraft activities which were formerly conducted at El Segundo.

As a part of a continuing expansion program, the new 100,000 square foot facility will function as an integral part of the newly formed Aero Hydraulics division of Vickers.

Administrative headquarters for the Aero Hydraulics division is at the Vickers Administrative and Engineering Center, Detroit, Michigan. Division activity at the center also includes engineering, sales, and service.

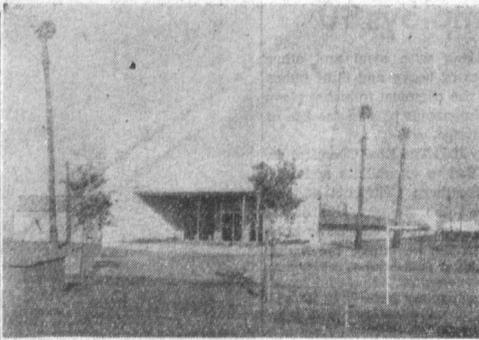
The Vickers organization was founded as the Vickers Manufacturing Co. in Los Angeles, 1920, by Harry F. Vickers, a pioneer hydraulic engineer. In 1925, Vickers developed a hydraulic steering gear for motor vehicles and a high pressure vane pump. With the development of additional products, the company expanded rapidly and was renamed Vickers Incorporated.

Production facilities for the division are located at Joplin, Missouri, Jackson, Mississippi, and Detroit, Michigan, (Oakman plant).

10 Acres
Location of the new Vickers Torrance plant is between Hawthorne and Crenshaw boulevards. The plant is situated on a site consisting of approximately 10 acres.

The new building which will house 650 employees was constructed at a cost of one million dollars. The general contractor was Donald F. Shaw, and engineers were the Donald R. Warren Co.

Construction of the Vickers plant marks the return of Bert Stone, Vickers California operations manager, to Lomita Blvd. Thirty years ago, Stone was manager of the Doheny-Stone Drill Co. which was then located on Lomita Blvd. James Rea



NEWLY LOCATED HERE
Vickers incorporated, a division of Sperry Rand Corp., came to Torrance in March of this year.

has been named plant manager.

Modern Era
Introduction of the Vickers fixed and variable displacement axial piston pumps and motors for aircraft use in 1940 marked the beginning of the modern era in aircraft system design.

Today, Vickers hydraulic systems and components are installed on virtually every current U.S. military and commercial airplane, and are known to be installed on civil aircraft registered in more than 40 countries.

In January, 1930, an experimental plant was established in Detroit, Michigan, and by the end of 1930 the entire business was transferred to Detroit.

During 1937, Vickers Incorporated merged with the Sperry Corp., and in 1955, the Sperry Corp. merged with Remington-Rand to form the present Sperry-Rand Corp., of which Vickers Incorporated is a division.

Today, Vickers designs and manufactures complete oil hydraulic power transmission and control systems for practically all types of applications.

These systems are used in a great variety of industries, including automotive, machine tools, farm machinery, aircraft

Civil Defense Students Graduate

Two Civil Defense classes graduated recently at combined exercises held at Dana School, Hawthorne. Of the total 169 graduates, 18 were from Torrance.

First aid certificates were also awarded 126 of the total number of graduates who fulfilled the American Red Cross requirements.

Howard Earl and Arlyn Weber, Supervisor Hahn's deputy, presented the diplomas. According to Earl there are now 2300 trained wardens in the district extending from Culver City to the ocean south, and east to Vermont st.

and missile, food products, highway construction and maintenance, petroleum, rubber, steel, mining, printing, pulp and paper, glass and ceramics, plastics, ship building, and railroad.

Expansion of the company over the years has resulted in the establishment of plants in Michigan, Connecticut, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Missouri, Mississippi, and California.

Pittsburgh Plate Glass Among World's Most Modern Plants

Pittsburgh Plate Glass company's Torrance plant is located on a triangular, 15-acre site, fronting on Crenshaw Blvd.

The plant consists of a large production building, warehouse, office building and an outdoor tank farm.

It has a total of 157,000 sq. ft. of floor space, loading docks and covered walkways. An additional 93,000 sq. ft. of roadways and parking lots comprise the improved acreage.

The Torrance plant is one of the most modern in the world, being especially designed and engineered to create the maximum efficiency in operation.

Paint Production

In production of paint both dry and liquid ingredients are used. The dry raw material consists of pigments, gums and chemical powders. The liquids include oils of various kinds, liquid chemicals and thinners.

Liquid raw material is brought in by tank-car and stored in a tank farm from which it is pumped to the production units.

All plant buildings were designed by Albert C. Martin and Associates, Los Angeles, and Pittsburgh Paint division engineers.

They are architecturally attractive, fitting in with local style, and practical with their construction embodying the latest in paint manufacturing techniques.

Essentially a one-story, earthquake resisting structure, the main production building has a second-level center section designed for efficient loading of ball and pebble mills. Mixing of pigments for roller mills and raw material screening into fill-

ing hoppers is also done on this level.

Production equipment includes units for the preparation of various raw materials used in paint making. The local plant has a lacquer producing unit and a gas-fired resin manufacturing process.

The plant has a lunch-room for employees and is equipped with modern locker and wash room facilities.

Complete Facilities

Complete laboratory facilities for production control, essential to high quality paint production, and for product development are housed in the office building.

This attractive structure also contains quarters for operating personnel and is headquarters for the sales, accounting, purchasing and advertising person-

nel of Pittsburgh Plate's West Coast division which covers California, Washington, Oregon and parts of Idaho and Nevada.

Paint products from the local plant are merchandised through two warehouses and 28 branch stores located throughout California. These units also handle "Pittsburgh" brushes,

United Wallpapers, and associated items.

Virtually the complete line of "Pittsburgh's" major paints, varnishes, enamels and special coatings are produced at Torrance.

These are for use in homes, on automobiles and aircraft, for boys, trains, and factories.

Ficht Piano Firm Serves Harbor Area

Bringing the entire Harbor area quality and service in pianos is the Ficht Piano Co., 611 S. Gaffey St. in San Pedro, owned by Robert J. Ficht who was with the Baldwin Piano Co. in Chicago for 30 years before opening the San Pedro store in May, 1953.

Over 40 new and used pianos may be found on the sales floor including complete selections of Baldwin, Gulbransen and Kohler and Campbell.

All of the used pianos have been reconditioned and many restyled in different woods and durable plastic with mirrors.

The majority of pianos purchased or accepted as trade-ins are neglected and moth-eaten, Ficht indicated. One of the important phases of rebuilding a used piano is replacing these felts which is done by the Ficht firm.

The hammers are filed, strings cleaned, and straps replaced. The piano is then

Agent Retires After 46 Years

Ernest S. Donaldson, 527 Arena St., El Segundo, retired, recently after 46 years with the Pacific Electric Railway Co.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CITY OF TORRANCE FOR ALL-AMERICAN HONORS

- First flight of the Transland Ag-2 farm and forest airplane occurred at Torrance Municipal Airport on October 11, 1956.
- Production has now started to answer the sales demands from U.S. and world-wide markets.
- Jobs are now open for sheet metal fabrication and assembly line work.
- Excellent working conditions, free hospitalization and life insurance, paid holidays and generous vacation plan, citizenship not required. Top wages to qualified applicants.

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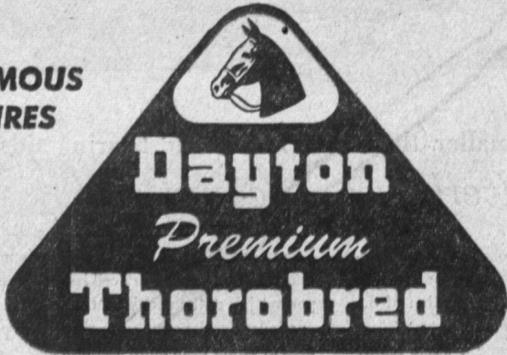
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